

THE QUESTION: Should college athletes be compensated in any way for their labor?

YES (compensate them)	NO (don't compensate them)

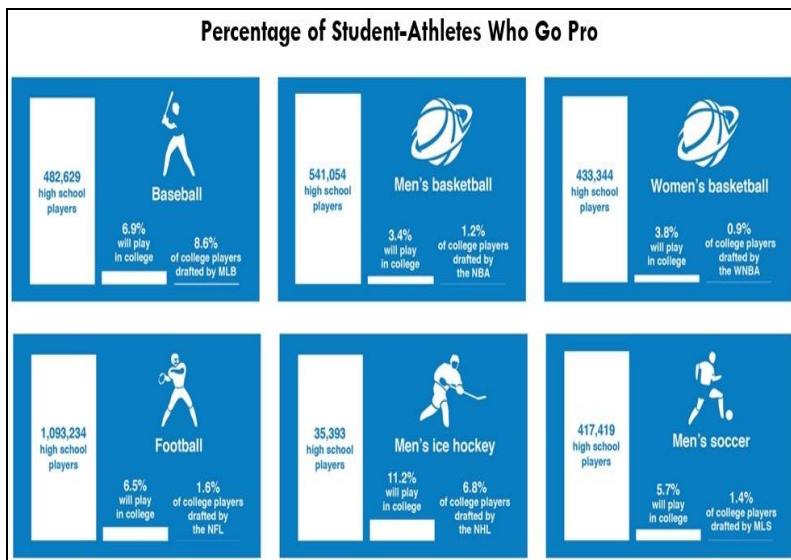
Evidence in SUPPORT of paying college athletes:

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, “It’s Time to Pay the Tab for America’s College Athletes,” *The Guardian*, (Jan. 9, 2018): “Playing basketball at UCLA was a seven-days-a-week job, involving intense practices, learning new plays, playing home games, and traveling around the country to compete against other schools. Our efforts earned millions of dollars for the university, both in cash and in recruiting advertisement to attract new students. But I was generally too poor to do anything but study, practice and play. The little spending money I managed to scrape together was earned on summer jobs. That money had to get me through the whole academic year. It was frustrating to win championship after championship every year, hear thousands chant my name, and then go to my bedroom to count my change so I could buy a burger. What made it even worse was that students with academic scholarships were allowed to work jobs during the school year while we were forbidden to. And if we were injured seriously enough that we couldn’t play anymore, our scholarships were revoked, despite the medical bills adding up. We were only as valuable as our ability to tote that ball and lift that score. Our coach, John Wooden, was sympathetic, but he made it clear that the NCAA would not change their policies. They were, he said, ‘immovable, like the sun rising in the east.’”



Top college coaches make between \$4m and \$9m per year, plus outside fees. In 40 out of the 50 states, they are the highest paid state employees...

Only a third of Division I men’s basketball programs are profitable. These facts are tossed in our faces like sand to blind us to the awareness that other programs, like football at the University of Texas made \$92m in profit in 2015, making it more profitable than most NFL teams. Yet, their players made nothing. Some apologists claim that the value of the scholarships, training, and other considerations give the players \$50,000 to \$125,000 a year in value, if not in cash. Plus, the best players get the invaluable publicity that they can cash in for big bucks when they turn pro. I certainly benefited from it. However, the reality is that, the chance of turning pro after college is less than 2% (except in baseball, which it’s 11.6%).”



Shabazz Napier, Minnesota

Timberwolves: “We do have hungry nights that we don’t have enough money to get food in. ... Sometimes, there’s hungry nights where I’m not able to eat, but I still gotta play up to my capabilities.”

Dan Mahony, president of the Southern Illinois University System:

“There are really only two groups of people who can't make money off of their own celebrity. That's prisoners and student-athletes, and when you're grouped with prisoners, you have to question if that's a fair rule, especially if you haven't done anything wrong.”



Zion Williamson holds his injured knee, as his exploded shoe dangles off his foot.

- Many athletic scholarships are granted only for one year, renewed at the discretion of coaches. A player who doesn't perform can find themselves cut loose. Medical care most often does not extend beyond college, and a player who is seriously injured can face considerable long-term expenses.

Thoughts on Zion Williamson's near career-ending knee injury when his Nike shoe exploded during a Duke-UNC game in Feb. 2019:

Donovan Mitchell @spidadmitchell

Again let's remember all the money that went into this game.... and these players get none of it.... and now Zion gets hurt... something has to change @NCAA

84.7K 9:41 PM - Feb 20, 2019 · Salt Lake City, UT

20.3K people are talking about this

Isaiah Thomas @isaiahthomas

Let these kids go straight out of HS!!! Too much on the line to be messing with college if you got a legit chance to turn pro. One injury can change somebody career, Zion sit yo ass down lol and we will be ready for you in the big boy league #LookingOutForThePlayers

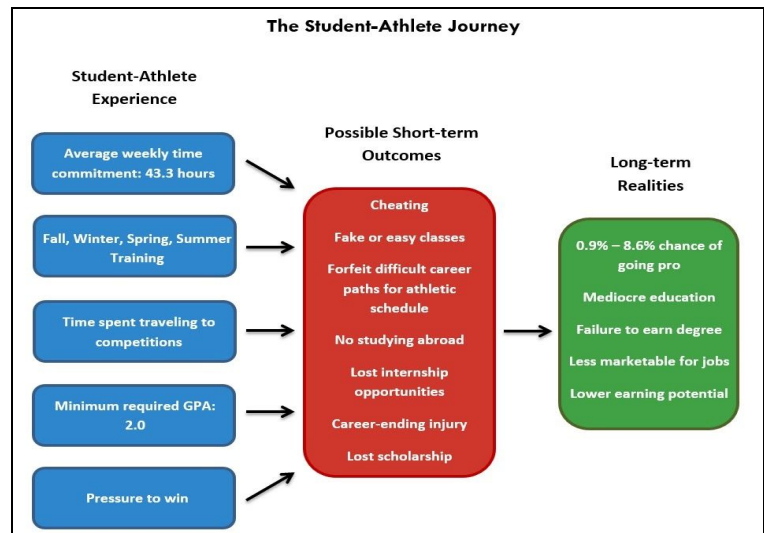
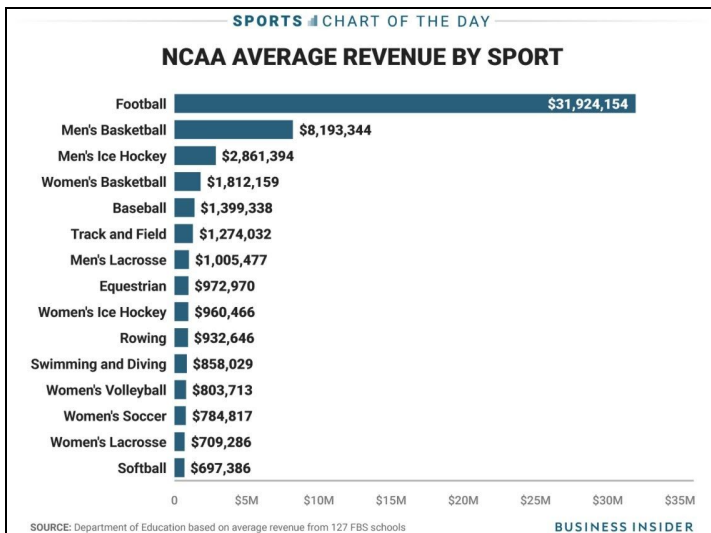
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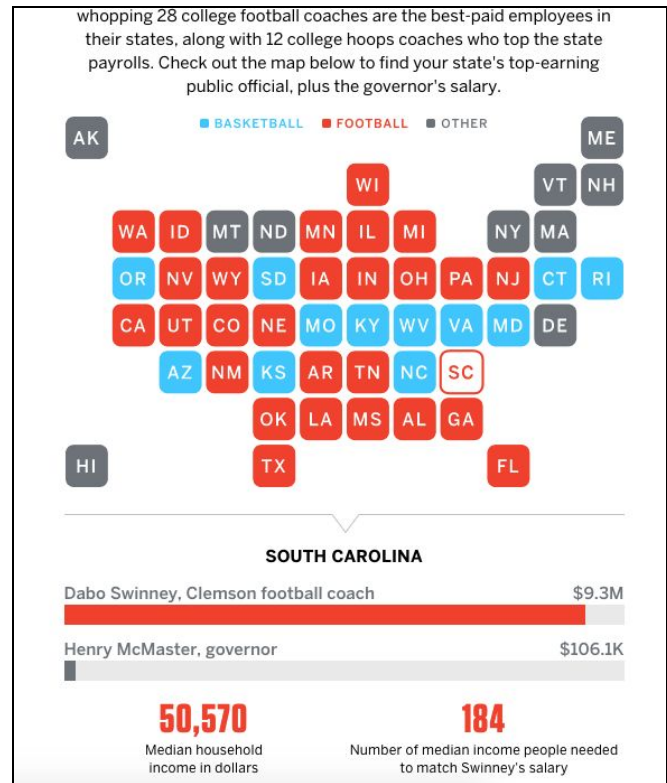
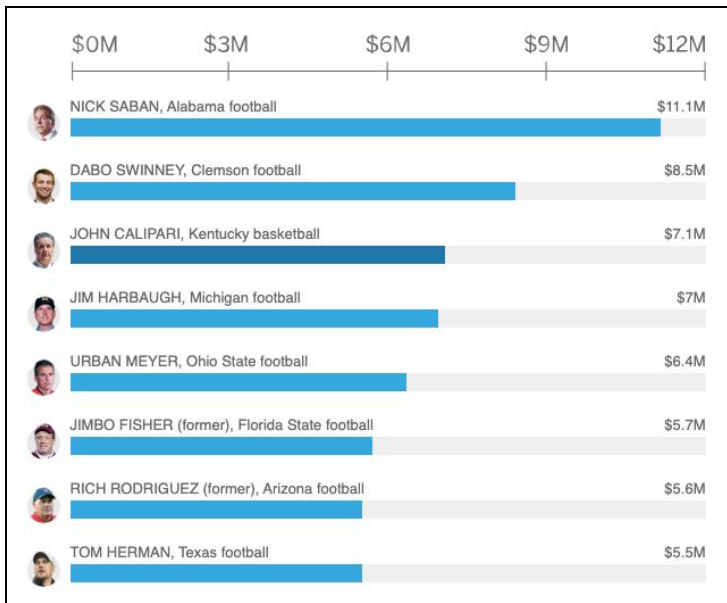
5,888 people are talking about this

Ed O'Bannon, "The NCAA is Broken," *The Players Tribune*, (Feb. 26, 2018): "I hate to break it to you, but the purity of amateur sports — out the window. People sometimes come up to me saying, "Hey, you're the dude that stopped the video games." But those weren't the intentions our side had. Our intentions were, first and foremost, starting the conversation of players getting paid. The amount of money that student-athletes are bringing into universities is staggering — it's in the billions.

So whether you're UCLA, Ohio State, Duke, North Carolina, Kentucky, or whether you're a smaller school ... everyone is getting paid. It's the coaches, the athletic directors, the trainers, doctors — everyone on campus is getting paid off of that money that the athlete is bringing in. Except the athletes themselves.

I think it's really as cut and dry as this: If you help make the money, you should be able to share in the profit. That's the American way."





- **Ramogi Huma, a former college football player and president of the College Athletes Players Association (CAPA):** “They are already paid... The schools require them to provide a service for receiving their scholarships. So the question is what is fair compensation and treatment for their services.”
- **Emmett Gill, Assistant professor at the University of Texas, National Coordinator of Student-Athletes Human Rights Project, CQ Researcher, (July 2014):** “College athletes do not necessarily need to receive a paycheck directly from their universities, but they should retain the ability to use their name, likeness and brand to generate uncapped income during and after their college career... All college athletes should be able to receive money to appear in a chip-and-dip commercial, have their own bubble gum card or operate their own sports camp.

...Is it fair that coach Nick Saban of the University of Alabama recently signed a \$55.2 million contract, but Tyrone Prothro, the Crimson Tide wide receiver celebrated for making “The Catch” in 2005, fractured both bones in his lower leg in his next game? Saban is wealthy and Prothro is in debt and out of football.

The argument that the value of a scholarship is sufficient compensation is invalid — look at the wretched diplomas from the University of North Carolina. 45% of UNC male athletes are clustered into three social science majors, the football players are on campus 11 months of the year and at least 7% are unable to read well.

...A free market in college athletics will provide athletes with the internship of a lifetime — the opportunity, the coursework and the platform to build a brand that can feed them, their families and their communities for generations.”



Former Rutgers football player Eric LeGrand leaves the field after participating in the coin toss before a game between Rutgers and Army at Yankee Stadium on Nov. 12, 2011, in New York City. LeGrand was paralyzed during a kickoff return in October 2010. Proposed legislation in the House would require college athletic programs that receive at least \$10 million from media rights to provide greater medical and health care guarantees to student-athletes. (Getty Images/Patrick McDermott)

- **Interview with Andrew Zimbalist, sports economist & professor, *PBS Frontline*, (Jan. 29, 2011):**
“Athletes are not allowed to use their athletic skills in the summertime to work in summer camps, but if you're a violinist in the school orchestra, you can go to a summer camp and get paid to be an assistant teaching violin. Or if you're a chemistry student, you can work in a lab in the summertime as a chemistry assistant and get paid for doing that. The NCAA has decided no, you can't do that if you have football or basketball skills. Because it violates the strictures of amateurism.

If they're really concerned about amateurism, why don't they say to the athletes: "Go ahead. Make a deal with a company. Have your likeness used. But you can't get paid until after you leave. Have the money put into an escrow account. Have the escrow account be used for educational expenditures later on in your life"? There are all sorts of ways that they could handle it. There are ways that they could abide by their philosophical commitment to amateurism and still benefit and still be totally consistent, and probably more consistent, with that principle of amateurism.”

Evidence AGAINST paying college athletes:

Interview with Mark Emmert, president of the NCAA, Frontline, PBS (Feb. 14, 2011):

Question: You don't see the contradiction that many have pointed out that when we're watching March Madness, you may have a coach who's being paid 6-7 figures in some cases? Everyone is being paid -- the athletic director, everyone you can see on the screen and many people you can't -- are being paid as part of this, but the students aren't. The athletes who are actually performing are not paid.

Answer: No, I don't find that contradictory at all. Quite the contrary. I think what would be utterly unacceptable is, in fact, to convert students into employees. The point of March Madness, of the Men's Basketball Tournament, is the fact that it's being played by students. We don't pay our student-athletes.

We provide them with remarkable opportunities to get an education at the finest universities on earth -- that's American universities and colleges -- to gain access to the best coaches and the best trainers, to develop their skills and abilities, so if they have the potential, that small proportion, to go on and play in professional sports, we're helping them develop those skills, and they can go do it.

If they choose to not go on, or if they don't have those skills or abilities, then they get to go on in life and be successful as a young man or a young woman. I find that to be a perfectly appropriate balance.



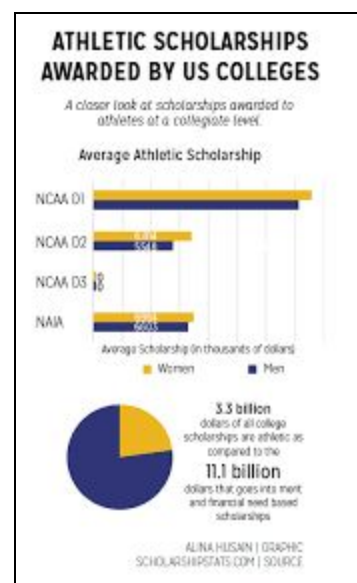
Zach Dirlam, "There's No Crying in College: The Case Against Paying College Athletes," *Bleacher Report* (April 2013): "Should college athletes get a piece of the \$871.6 million pie the NCAA brings in annually? The answer is simple: No, absolutely not.

College athletes are already being paid with an athletic scholarship that is worth between \$20-\$50,000 per year. That does not even begin to factor in the medical and travel expenses, free gear, top-notch coaching, unlimited use of elite athletic facilities and a national stage to audition for a job in the professional ranks. All of those perks are paid for in full by the universities these athletes choose to attend.

Athletic scholarships cover just about everything a student-athlete needs to survive for four years at a major university. Campus housing, daily medical care and free meals via training table are all included. Tuition and books are covered as well. None of those things are cheap. It costs \$57,180 to attend Duke University. The University of Texas charges \$35,776 for out-of-state enrollees. Even Butler University charges \$31,496 per year. This means many college athletes are being reimbursed with nearly as much money as the average American makes per year.

Leaving a four-year college with a degree will help former players earn more money than those who only have a high school diploma, regardless of whether or not they move on to a professional sports career....

Every student-athlete knows they cannot get paid in college, but if they do not like it there are other options. Brandon Jennings was the No. 1-overall basketball prospect in the country in 2008. Instead of attending college, Jennings opted to sign a \$1.2 million deal with Lottomatica Roma, a professional team in Italy. The Compton, CA product was drafted 10th by the Milwaukee Bucks after playing one season overseas.



Much like the foreign basketball associations, the Canadian Football League does not have an age requirement. High school graduates wishing to play pro football can head north and sign a contract right away. The No. 2

running back in the class of 2009, Bryce Brown, flirted with the CFL before eventually signing a letter of intent for the Tennessee Volunteers.

Instead of choosing this route, though, NFL and NBA hopefuls take their talents to the NCAA. The media exposure, coaching and training provided by the universities is far better than the athletes will receive in foreign markets. Going to classes is simply the tradeoff for reaping these benefits....

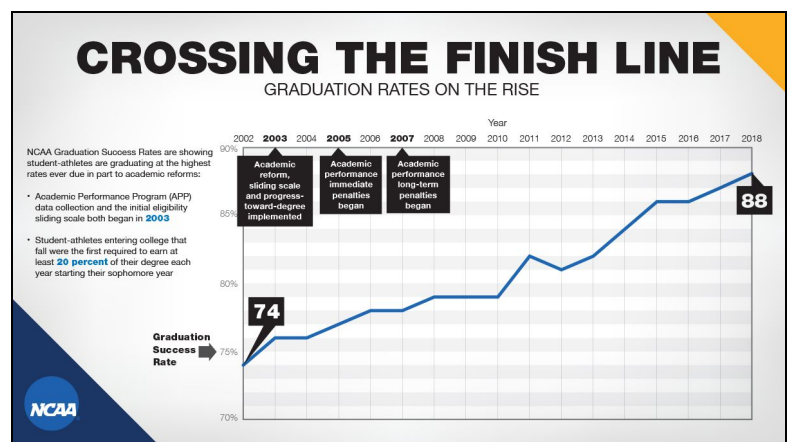
Although the NCAA reels in over \$800 million per year, 81 percent of which comes from television and marketing-rights fees, the organization continues to be non-profit.... An astounding 96% of the revenue the NCAA brings in annually is redistributed to its members' institutions....

The universities themselves are not exactly rolling in wads of cash, either. Last year, only 22 athletic departments were profitable. Football and basketball bring in the dough, and every other college sport survives as a result....College athletics may sound like a great business, but in reality only the top-tier programs are churning out a profit.”

Source: <https://bleacherreport.com/articles/1588301-theres-no-crying-in-college-the-case-against-paying-college-athletes>

GRADUATION RATES:

- “More student-athletes than ever before are earning their college degrees, and we are gratified to see our reform efforts impact the lives of those we serve,” NCAA President Emmert said in a press release.
 - The Graduation Success Rate for Division I college athletes is 86%.
 - Student-athletes outperform their peers in the student body by 2%.
 - African-American student-athletes outperform their peers in the student body by an even greater percentage: 56% of African-American college athletes earned their degrees, compared with 47% of African-Americans in the student body.



COMPENSATION

- **Jeffrey Dorfman, a University of Georgia economist:** “Colleges are already compensating their student athletes with tuition, room, board, coaching, nutritional support and physical trainers that can exceed \$100,000 per year in value. Student athletes are already paid, and the current system is pretty close to as fair as we are going to get.”
- The NCAA:
 - “Our member colleges and universities together award \$2.4 billion in athletic scholarships every year to more than 150,000 student-athletes. In addition, we provide almost \$100 million each year to support student-athletes’ academic pursuits and assist them with the basic needs of college life, such as a computer, clothing or emergency travel expenses.”
 - Shortly following Shabazz Napier's comment about going to bed hungry, the NCAA announced that all Division I student-athletes would be allowed unlimited meal benefits. In 2015, the NCAA also allowed for limited payment to athletes, in addition to athletic scholarships. The plan allows

schools to give a \$2,000 stipend based on need to athlete-students. It was later repealed by NCAA schools because they couldn't afford it.

GENERAL OBJECTIONS

- **Horace Mitchell, President of California State University, member of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors, *CQ Researcher*, (July 2014):** “The argument is that because such institutions receive millions of dollars from the performance (labor) of student-athletes, they should be paid.

However, student-athletes are not employees or professional athletes who are paid salaries and incentives for a career in sports. They are students who gain access to a college education through their participation in sports, for which they earn scholarships to pay tuition, fees, room and board and other allowable expenses. A high percentage of student-athletes graduate without the burden of student loans that most students accumulate and must repay.

Student-athletes are amateurs who choose to participate in intercollegiate athletics as part of their educational experience, thus maintaining a distinction between student-athletes who participate in the collegiate model and professional athletes who might be students as well. Participation in collegiate sports is not a student-athlete's job. His or her ability to compete is contingent upon continued enrollment and academic eligibility. Because these athletes are not employees, it follows that they should not be unionized.”

- **Amy Perko, executive director of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics:** “It is my strong belief that universities should not be in the business of running professional teams and semi-pro teams.” Paying players would mean schools were essentially operating professional teams under the banner of an institution of higher learning, she says. Instead, Perko says, the college athletic system needs [to put] the “student” in student-athlete first by re-emphasizing academics. To that end, she adds, the commission supports giving students more time for classes and a greater chance of completing school with a meaningful degree.
- **Ann Mayo, director of the Center for Sport Management at Seton Hall University:** Says athletes in other sports, such as swimming or track and field, are no less dedicated than those in the money-making sports. Yet because many athletes in the non-revenue-generating sports know they will not go pro, they concentrate on taking advantage of the educational opportunity provided by their scholarship. “You're not going to pay everybody. There's not enough money for that,” she says. “But there are a lot of student-athletes in other sports who love their sport, but also love the classes they are taking and are doing really well. These are the people who probably aren't going to get paid for all their hard work. On the surface, it looks like the people who are doing what they are supposed to be doing, who are the true student-athletes, are probably not going to get paid.”
- **Jim Livengood, retired athletic director at the University of Arizona in Tucson:** Even in successful Division I sports programs, the money made by football and basketball has to be stretched farther than most people realize. Division I schools often support more than 20 different sports teams for men and women. “If you have 21 programs, there are two that make money. That's football and men's basketball. The other 19 don't make money. The amount they're going to bring in ... isn't even going to pay for the coaches' salaries.” “Yet those programs are just as valuable an experience to the student-athlete, just as valuable a lifetime skill as football and basketball.”